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# Curricular Report No. 2014-15-2 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: College of Nursing – Replace Masters Core Courses with Doctoral Core Courses.

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE OFFICE


Green Hall, 35 Campus Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881 USA p: 401.874.2616



Serial Number #14-15—7B

TO: President David Dooley  
FROM: Bahram Nassersharif, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL titled, Curricular Report No. 2014-15-2 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: College of Nursing - Replace Masters Core Courses with **Doctoral Core Courses**, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on December 11, 2014.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective January 2, 2015 three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; or (3) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum.

  
Bahram Nassersharif  
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

December 17, 2014

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ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

- a. Approved ☒.
- b. Approved subject to Notice to the Board of Education \_\_\_\_.
- c. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Education ☒ **APPROVED 4/1/15**
- d. Disapproved \_\_\_\_.

  
Signature of the President

1.7.15  
(date)

# **GRADUATE COUNCIL CURRICULUM REPORT #2, November 2014**

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## **Additional Curricular Matters**

### **1) College of Nursing Nursing Program Changes**

**University of Rhode Island  
College of Nursing**

#### **Proposal to replace Masters Core Courses with Doctoral Core Courses March 10, 2014**

##### **Rationale:**

In October 2004, The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) adopted the goal that preparation for specialization in nursing should occur at the doctoral level by 2015. In response to this goal, URI College of Nursing developed and opened our post-masters DNP program and began admitting students in fall 2010. Because of a national trend toward post-baccalaureate DNP education and increasing student interest in this program, we expanded our DNP program to include a post-baccalaureate entry with students selecting one of our existing three Nurse Practitioner specializations and moving through DNP courses after the NP concentration courses. They have the option of obtaining their MS degree after completion of the NP courses and working as an NP while completing their DNP degree. This was approved by the Board of Education in April 2013 and students were admitted in the fall of 2013. An increasing number of students are opting for this post BS DNP degree and numbers of students choosing our existing masters degrees are decreasing. This results in fewer numbers of students in the masters core courses and the necessity of having additional faculty teach the courses with low enrollments.

##### **Proposal:**

To facilitate graduate students meeting the AACN goal of a DNP degree and to maximize student enrollment numbers in graduate nursing courses, we propose phasing out our current required masters first level core courses and replacing them with the required DNP first level core courses.

This will result in the doctoral core courses below replacing the Masters core courses below.

##### **DNP first level Core Courses:**

- NUR 660 Philosophical and Theoretical Bases of Health Research (increase to 4 crs)
- NUR 651 Qualitative research
- NUR 652 Quantitative research
- HDF 527 Social and Health Care Policy

#### **Masters first level Core Courses:**

- NUR 500 General Study of Nursing Knowledge for Nursing Practice (4 cr)
- NUR 505 Nursing Research
- NUR 507 Theories of Practice for Nursing
- NUR 510 Advanced Leadership in the Health Policy Process

At this time, there is a one-credit difference between the Doctoral core and the Masters core courses. The Masters core is one credit more with NUR 500 at 4 credits. We are proposing the increase of one credit in NUR 660 from 3 to 4 credits to more adequately cover this foundational content of concept exploration and knowledge development for practice currently covered in 500. This is being proposed in an accompanying course change proposal.

This phasing out of our Masters core will necessitate the Masters students in Education and Administration also taking the Doctoral core. This core will enhance their educational experiences as well.

The first semester that only doctoral core courses would be offered to incoming students would be spring 2015. As the fall 2014 cohort of students taking the masters core moves through the curriculum, the master core courses (500, 505, 507 and 510) will be phased out.

NUR 520 is a one-credit course taken at the end of the Masters degree that incorporates integration of knowledge across the program, the comprehensive exam and major paper work so will continue to be a required course for students receiving their Masters degrees.

The course descriptions for each of these courses are listed below. While there is not a one to one match in content, the doctoral core courses more fully address the AACN's eight Essentials of DNP Education which serve as guidelines for accreditation of DNP programs and the foundation of DNP curricula.

### **Course Descriptions**

#### **Doctoral Core:**

##### **NUR 660: Philosophical and Theoretical Bases of Health Research**

Presentation of the philosophical and theoretical bases of contemporary healthcare research.

##### **NUR 651: Advanced Methods in Nursing Research I**

In-depth study of approaches used in qualitative research including philosophical underpinnings and research design, and their potential application to knowledge development in nursing practice.

##### **NUR 652: Advanced Methods in Nursing Research II**

In-depth study of application of theories and methods in sampling, research design, data collection, and data analysis for quantitative and evaluative research in nursing.

**HDF 527: Health Care Policy**

Development of policy frameworks and their application for understanding current major health care policy issues across lifespan, including economic, political, and ethical dimensions. Exploration of the experiences of other countries.

**Masters Core:****NUR 500: General Study of Nursing Knowledge for Nursing Practice**

Introduction to the essential features of nursing knowledge and its development in relation to nursing practice. Study of approaches to nursing knowledge development, and major conceptual/theoretical knowledge in nursing.

**NUR 505: Nursing Research**

An overview and analysis of current research in nursing with special focus on patient care. Students will design a research project.

**NUR 507: Theories of Practice for Nursing:**

Analysis of general theories of practice for nursing and their applicability to various areas of clinical practice.

**NUR 510: Nursing Leadership in the Health Policy Process**

Study of nurses' participation in the health policy process. Focus on theories for the development of nursing leaders. Analysis and application of creative nursing strategies for the enhancement of health care

**NUR 520: Graduate Study Seminar (1 cr)**

Facilitates the synthesis and examination of information learned in the master's program about nursing knowledge development, advancement of nursing practice, and leadership role development.

**Summary of essential content in Masters Core Courses and  
corresponding courses in Doctoral Core Courses**

NUR 500 – summary of knowledge development; study of concepts; identification and exploration of concept of interest	NUR 660 and NUR 651 – philosophical underpinnings of knowledge development in nursing in 660; in depth exploration of concept of interest in 651
NUR 505 – study of primarily quantitative with some qualitative research; emphasis on application to patient care	NUR 651 (qualitative) and 652 (quantitative) – cover content in 505 well including expansion to application to evidence based practice

NUR 507 – explores theories used in nursing and application to clinical practice	NUR 660 – the revised 660 when it was consolidated last year with 601 (theoretical foundations) includes essential content in theories used in nursing and application with further application continuing in subsequent non-core courses.
NUR 510 – studies nurses' participation in the health policy process and strategies for improving health care	HDF 527 – open to the university to enhance interdisciplinary education; addresses the health policy process and much more. Additional strategies for transforming health care are addressed throughout the NP and DNP practica as well.

### **Catalog Changes:**

#### **Under Nursing, Masters of Science:**

**Existing:** *Program requirements:* 41 credits for administration, 42 credits for education, and 43-46 credits for the nurse practitioner concentrations. Required courses include 14 credits in core courses (NUR 500, 505, 507, 510, and 520) for all students;

**Proposed:** *Program requirements:* 41 credits for administration, 42 credits for education, and 43-46 credits for the nurse practitioner concentrations. Required courses include 13 credits in core courses (NUR 660, 651, 652, and HDF 527) for all students;